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# The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and Downtown News

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# POWER BROKERS

## Community groups seek inside track to Ratner bucks

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Two organizations that have been meeting with Forest City Ratner officials over a community benefits agreement tied to Atlantic Yards may be rewarded with jobs if the basketball arena, office skyscraper and apartment high-rise plan gains government approvals.

Members of both BUILD (Brooklyn United for Innovative Local Development) and the New York chapter of ACORN (Alliance of Commu-

nity Organizations for Reform Now) — which both support the Forest City Ratner plan — say they are already providing to the developer services for which they could later be hired, acting as community gateways to jobs and housing.

Ratner plans to build Atlantic Yards on 24 acres of public and private property bounded by Dean Street and Flatbush, Atlantic and Vanderbilt avenues in Prospect Heights.

James Snackey, executive vice president of Forest City Ratner, announced at a public meeting on Nov. 29 that he hoped to bring ACORN on as the community's sponsor once the city Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) granted his company tax abatements connected to the construction of affordable housing on the site.

Carol Abrams, an HPD spokeswoman, said her agency requires a community sponsor in any cases where developers receive tax abatements or relief that is paid for by city taxpayers. That group, she said, is chosen at the developer's discretion.

HPD entrusts the chosen community group with marketing and leasing the project's housing component, but still monitors the administration of the lottery-style application process through which tenants are selected for the affordable housing. As proposed, Ratner's project would include 2,000 units of tax- abated housing and 4,500 units in total.

But at the Nov. 29 public meeting, the motives of both ACORN, a nationwide organization of low- and moderate-income families, and BUILD, a community group formed for the express purpose of finding jobs from the Atlantic Yards project, were called into question.

An audience member asked if members of the two groups were getting paid by Forest City Ratner.

See **POWER** on page 4

## Library to get \$16M makeover

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

The Brooklyn Public Library is undertaking a \$16 million, 18-month reconstruction of its Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza.

Library patrons, he warned. As soon as January, readers arriving at the library on Eastern Parkway at Flatbush Avenue may find looming construction equipment sheds obscuring the grand entrance.

But although the library may look off-limits, it will be open during normal hours, despite commencement of the project, which includes construction of an underground auditorium that has been in the works since 1912.

On Dec. 16, library directors and trustees gathered to host a community forum addressing concerns local residents

See **LIBRARY** on page 11



## Piano man, all dressed in red

In Dyker Heights, where Christmas always seems a little bit brighter, Santa takes a turn at the piano for this display at 1054 82nd St.



Adam Kuban, who operates a Web site called SliceNY.com, enjoys some brick-oven pizza at Franny's on Flatbush Avenue at St. Mark's Place.

## Park Sloper's slice of life

### Weblog seeks the perfect pie

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

About a year ago, Park Sloper Adam Kuban received a tip about an out-of-the-way pizzeria in Gravesend, where, as he was told, a customer could order what was described to him as a cross between a calzone and a particularly savory slice.

The spot, which he claims has no name, no sign and no advertising, serves until the dough runs out, usually about noon.

But the locale has proven elusive for Kuban, creator of SliceNY.com, a Web site that bills itself as "America's favorite pizza weblog."

Indeed, in three sojourns to an area not far from the Marlboro Houses in Gravesend and the Coney Island rail yards, Kuban has come to think of the elusive pizzeria as his very own white whale.

"They said it's under the train tracks and it's this weird little shop with no name or a sign," Kuban said of the person who tipped him off to the pizza place, which he believes

is near Bay 50th Street and Avenue X.

"I can't find it," he said. "I don't know if it's even for real."

Real or not, it is Quixotic detours like those that have transformed SliceNY from kitschy curiosity to a resource of Zagat-sized proportions, at least where pizza is concerned. It has become something of a must-read for anyone in search of a great slice. Since Kuban put the site online last October, it has grown to include nearly 500 pages and gets about 600 hits a day.

Besides embarking on a mission to review parlors outside of the city (thanks to contributor Ian Ritter, SliceNY's "foreign correspondent"), Kuban said that he and two other Web

site staffers hope to parlay the site's early success into a franchise of sorts. That endeavor, he said, could come to include online travel guides (with directions to the best pizza joints) and maybe even a coffee table book.

Until then, however, Kuban's biggest contribution to pizza remains something he calls the "piPod," which allows lovers of cheese, sauce and dough to download a list of some 35 pizzeria reviews onto their iPods. The invention is free on the site, he said, and is updated regularly.

"Most of my really good friends know not to get me started," said Kuban, 30, of his predilection for pizza. "But sometimes even I

See **PIZZA** on page 11

## NORMAN'S CRY

### 'Hynes wants to make politics illegal'

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

Characterizing two former judicial candidates as "a bunch of disgruntled losers," attorneys for Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr. maintained that when the party boss demanded both nominees either ante up for favored campaign vendors or forget the party's nomination, he was only engaging in run-of-the-mill "hardball" Brooklyn politics.

And that much is still legal, the lawyers said

at a pretrial hearing in Supreme Court, Downtown, on Monday.

"The politics of Brooklyn is a complicated business," said Mark Baker, an attorney for Norman, during a Dec. 20 pretrial motion requesting that the court drop an indictment against Norman on the basis that the Brooklyn Democratic Party boss' conduct is constitutionally protected.

"It may not be nice," said Baker. "It's hardball, but it's not illegal."

See **NORMAN** on page 11



Clarence Norman

## Sources: Capano to quit Boro Hall post

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

Sources say a Republican City Council hopeful from Bay Ridge will resign from his position as a senior advisor to Borough President Marty Markowitz.

Robert Capano, who was hired by

Markowitz's predecessor, Howard Golden, in 1999, told The Brooklyn Papers this week, "The answer is I haven't resigned."

But a Markowitz spokeswoman Jocelyn Aframe said, "We understand Bob is exploring his options. In the meantime, he will continue to fulfill his obligations here at Borough Hall."

Under Markowitz, who took office in 2002, Capano was promoted to the position of senior advisor for community relations and legislative affairs, a role in which his responsibilities include overseeing the borough's 18 community boards while acting as a liaison to its elected officials and civic groups.

See **BEEP AIDE** on page 11



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GO Brooklyn begins on page 5

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# Pratt area celebrates new and emerging biz

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

A new shopping district is becoming a destination on the eastern end of Clinton Hill.

On Friday, the Pratt Area Community Council (PACC) celebrated three store launches that signified the turnaround of a commercial strip on Grand Avenue between Clifton Place and Lafayette Avenue that Melissa Lee, the manager for PACC's Commercial Revitalization program, said was blighted when the organization bought the building from the city in 2001 — they paid just \$1.

Elected officials including Borough President Mary Markowitz, Councilwoman Letitia James and former Councilwoman Una Clarke, representing Gov. George



Carlos Aquila, Councilwoman Letitia James, Radhames Villalona, Felicia Fonrose and Barry Friedberg at Dakar restaurant, 285 Grand Ave., to celebrate the revitalized commercial strip.

Pataki, along with residents and city employees, came out on Dec. 10 to sample the Senegalese-influenced cuisine of Dakar, indulge in the services at Nu Yu Day Spa, and taste the organic smoothies of Karrot, a health food store.

At Dakar, a catering company that opened its first sit-down dining area, they enjoyed pastels (fish turnovers) in dipping sauce, fried plantains and chili-spiced hummus prepared by chef Pierre Thiam as well as a photography exhibit of African images. For those who stayed later, there was a spoken-word performance.

"PACC has bent over backwards to do everything possible for us," said Barry Friedberg, the co-owner of Dakar. "Without them we couldn't have made this happen." Dakar, he explained, will eventually be a full-time restaurant and bar; currently it is only open for dinner.

The restaurant opened as a space for the caterers in November 2003, as did Karrot and Nu Yu Day Spa (where Clarke received a sample massage), but until recently was not ready for a sit-down spot at their 285A Grand Ave. storefront.

But Karrot, next door at 285 Grand, has been open for the better part of a year and now just hopes to see more customers.

Radhames Villalona, co-owner of the three-store chain, said he was excited to have so many people in the store, but more importantly, on the block.

"A lot of people don't know we're here, but we're surviving, finally," he said. "There is no doubt that for one business to be successful it depends on other business in the same location."

Lee agreed, but said that PACC's focus was also on finding diverse businesses to

champion that would "create economic corridors and sustainable businesses."

Villalona said he already has many customers who are happy to see a health food store on the block.

"Right now I see two, three, four, five businesses here right now on this very small block," he said. "I can see Grand Avenue, which has never been like that, turning into a commercial street, which would be very good for the whole community."

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# Daylight mugging

## POLICE BLOTTER

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Two men attacked and mugged a couple on their way to their Monroeville apartment around lunchtime on Dec. 18.

The victims had parked their car in front of the building, between Clark and Pierpont streets, at 12:25 pm and were walking toward the building when one of the attackers approached the male victim. Another man cornered the woman and, brandishing a silver handgun, held her at bay in the lobby.

The woman handed over everything she had, while the male victim was held outside by the other thug, who roughed him up and hit him on the head with an unknown object.

The muggers fled on Monroeville Place headed toward Pierpont Street. The victim sustained a laceration to his head and cut to his back and was treated at an undisclosed hospital.

The mugging was witnessed by a man across the street, and police from the 84th Precinct arrested a suspect shortly thereafter.

Collared just blocks away, a 17-year-old suspect, identified as one of the muggers, and taken into custody by Police Officer Edward Polanco.

Recovered was the victim's wallet, with \$30, credit cards and identification.

**Cranberry caper**

Two thugs attacked a man and his girlfriend at the corner of Henry and Cranberry streets on Dec. 17.

It was a quarter past midnight when the man, 23, and his girlfriend, 19, were walking through Brooklyn Heights. Out of nowhere, two tall men approached them.

One of the men, wearing a black knit winter hat, and all-black attire, grabbed the male victim by his coat, and demanded all his money. The other man stood behind the victim, and held what he later described to police as a metal object to his head.

The first man took the victim's wallet, containing credit cards and \$40 in cash, and the two muggers fled.

**Mug on Henry**

Three men mugged a Brooklyn Heights man at gunpoint on Henry Street on Dec. 11, taking all his money and threatening to kill him if he called police.

The victim, 33, was walking northbound between Joralemon and State streets at 8:20 pm, when the trio of goons approached him.

One of the muggers, who appeared to be the ringleader, pulled out a black, semiautomatic handgun and ordered the victim to hand over all of his money.

A man standing behind the gunman growled, "If you call the cops, we'll kill you."

The third man took the victim's wallet, which contained \$150 in cash and his debit card, and also took a cellular phone from the victim's pocket.

The three crooks fled on foot southbound on Henry Street.

**Taken for ride**

Four men beat up and mugged a lively cab driver when he stopped to drop them off on President Street between Henry and Clinton streets on Dec. 18.

The driver, 37, told police he was dropping off the four male passengers at 5:10 am, but when they got out of the vehicle they weren't too eager to pay.

One of the men punched him in the face and then grabbed the money the driver had near the console between the driver and front passenger seat, totaling \$20.

**Brutal mugging**

Two men beat up and mugged a woman for her purse in broad daylight as she was walking in Carroll Gardens on Dec. 17.

The victim, 24, told police she was at the corner of Third Place and Court Street when, at 3:28 pm, the thugs suddenly attacked her, and one tried to pull her purse out from under her arm.

Instead of forfeiting the bag right away, she clung tight, which only made matters worse.

Showing no mercy, the two

men punched and kicked her until she let go.

The lowlifes fled eastbound on Second Place towards Clinton Street, making off with the purse, which, she told police, contained a \$380 digital camera, an MP3 player, keys, books, makeup and miscellaneous papers.

Though a police canvas turned up no suspects, the woman's bag was found at the end of a footbridge over the Gowanus Expressway on the south side of Hamilton Avenue.

**Electric boogaloo**

Burglars robbed a small electronics store of more than \$20,000 in merchandise during the night of Dec. 13. When the storeowner opened up the shop the next morning at 9:30 am she discovered the place had been looted.

Located in a larger commercial building on Court Street between Huntington Street and West Ninth Street, the owner, 40, said she noticed the front locks of her gate had been cut when she went in that morning.

She reported that 30 cell phones, worth \$16,000; 15 DVD players, totaling \$2,500; 10 watch sets, worth \$300; 10 prepaid cellular phones, worth \$1,000; and \$510 in cash had been taken from the store.

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# Mug duo takes bike & bucks

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Violent robbers attacked a young man on Douglass Street in Park Slope on Dec. 18, and made off with his cash and his wheels.

The victim, 19, told police that one man approached him while he was riding his mountain bike between Fourth and Fifth avenues at 6:40 p.m.

"Where is your money?" the man demanded before punching the victim in the face.

The other thug went through his pockets, and found \$90 and a cell phone.

The men fled westbound on

Douglass Street with the victim's bike. The victim refused medical attention.

## Jogger jumped

Two street toughs beat up a jogger running northbound on Prospect Park West and stole his digital music player. The incident happened at 8:10 p.m. on Dec. 18.

The victim, 28, told police he was running between Seventh and Eighth streets, along the sidewalk, when one of the hoodlums grabbed him by his neck and forced him to the ground, pushing his face into the pavement.

"Give me the iPod," one of the muggers said, adding, "Give me your wallet!"

The other attacker held the victim's legs down and the two removed his property together.

Fleeing westbound on Eighth Street, they made off with the \$350 mini-stereo.

A witness who saw the incident from her home called police.

## Car thief

The owner of a tan, 1996 Acura Integra sedan parked his car at the corner of Seventh Avenue and 13th Street on Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. When he went to retrieve the car the next day, at 8:30 a.m., it was nowhere to be found.

The victim, who lives just a block away from where he parked the car, told police that he saw no broken glass, but all tow records turned up negative.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Along with the car, the victim reported stolen \$7,500 worth of compact discs, a DVD player and his car's Virginia license plates and vehicle registration. He estimated the total loss at \$17,700.

## PC burglar

A burglar broke into an apartment on Seventh Avenue at Garfield Place Dec. 15 while the occupant was out, between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The resident, 47, told police that when he returned it appeared the burglar had entered through the rear kitchen window and left by way of the front door, making off with a desktop computer.

## Bike thief

Burglars took off in the night with a Park Slope's yellow, 2004 Suzuki motorcycle,

which had been stored behind a locked gate on Sterling Place between Flatbush and Seventh avenues.

Breaking into the side gate of a residential building, where the bike was routinely kept, the burglars managed to clip the locks and chain and lift the gate.

When the victim discovered it missing the next day, Dec. 16, at 11:30 a.m., he noticed that the lock and chains had all been cut.

## Gunpoint mug

A brazen robber jammed a gun into his victim's ribs and threatened to shoot him if he didn't give up his wallet and cell phone. The incident happened on Garfield Place, at 10 p.m. on Dec. 15.

The victim, 24, was walking alone between Fifth and Sixth

avenues when the culprit approached him and pulled the gun, saying, "Give me your wallet and phone."

"Don't call the cops or I'll kill you."

The man wisely complied.

## Carroll St. mug

Two muggers attacked a young man from behind while he was walking home on Carroll Street in Gowanus on Dec. 15.

Only a few doors from his home, the victim, 18, turned to see two men approaching at 10 p.m., one of whom brandished a large, yellow box-cutter.

The other man held a small, dark handgun, and ordered the victim to turn around, while they patted him down and took his property, including his cell phone, wallet and gym membership card.

The men directed him not to turn around, and fled towards Fourth Avenue, making a left towards Union Street.

# Baby accidentally ODs on heart pills

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

A 19-month-old toddler from Windsor Terrace nearly died this week after he ingested a handful of pills prescribed to his babysitter's husband for a heart condition, police said.

The child was staying with his regular babysitter at her 14th Street home in Park Slope.

The 56-year-old woman, who has five grown children of her own and who neighbors said treats the toddler as one of her own, went to the hospital with the baby on Friday, Dec. 17, after he lost consciousness. Calls to the sitter's home were not returned by press time.

The investigation is ongoing but Sandy Silverstein, a spokeswoman for District Atto-

ney Charles Hynes, said Tuesday that child endangerment charges would not be pressed against the babysitter. The parents of the child told reporters on Dec. 17 that they had no intention of filing charges against the woman, and called the incident an accident.

The little boy found the Clonidine pills — a heart medication that relaxes blood vessels and swallowed

about 10 of them. According to neighbors, the sitter's husband is bed-ridden after suffering a stroke.

Police said the boy pushed past a wooden gate that separated the bedroom from the rest of the sitter's house and found the pills.

Police are still investigating whether the child opened the bottle himself, or if it was found open.

## Union rips opera

Associated Press

A Manhattan concert hall stopped the Opera Company of Brooklyn from holding a planned event there this month after a musicians' union scheduled a protest against the company's use of a so-called virtual orchestra machine.

The Dec. 14 event, which the opera company said was a fundraiser and celebration of its new board of trustees, was to be moved to another venue, said Jay D. Meetez, the company's founder and artistic director.

The fundraiser was to include a demonstration of the Sinfonia, a computerized audio system that is banned from Broadway theaters.

The union objects to the device, which union president David Lennson said was designed with the "sole purpose of eliminating live music and live musicians and replacing them with a machine" to increase profits.

Meetez said the Sinfonia allows the Opera Company of Brooklyn to provide affordable, accessible opera.

"The whole mission of the Opera Company of Brooklyn is to work to bring opera to the masses, and using technology is a way to accomplish this goal," Meetez said by telephone.

Lennson said the opera company agreed with the union in February not to use the device without the union's consent. Meetez said that agreement was invalid because one board member had signed it under duress.

Local 802 of the American Musicians' Union had scheduled a Tuesday night rally outside CAMI, the concert hall where the fund-raiser was to take place. The protest was canceled after CAMI decided not to host the event, Lennson said.

"We applaud CAMI hall for their commitment to live music, and we're very pleased that tonight's performance

was prevented," Lennson said. Last year, musicians staged a four-day walkout in a dispute over the virtual orchestra machines, shutting down all but one Broadway musical. The strike cost the city \$10 million in box office receipts and revenue.

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# Positive vibes best for dealing with ex

**Q: My 4-year-old nephew likes to play with Barbie dolls and wear high-heeled shoes. How can we discourage this?**

**A:** With preschool boys, there's already enough behavior that has to be squashed: Don't add dolls and fancy shoes to the list.

Insist that a 4-year-old boy stop playing with Barbies and guess what he'll want to do most?

Whether little boys don plastic neckties, play house with dolls or try on silky scarves, it's developmentally inappropriate to interfere with their choices, experts say. Just sit back and enjoy the imaginative show.

"This is normal," says family therapist Michael Gurian, author of "Boys and Girls: Learn Differently" (Jossey-Bass, 2002).

"Don't involve yourselves in it," Gurian, who runs an educational training organization, suggests that adults concerned about a boy's choices need to tune into their own biases. Separate what's yours from what's the child's choice.

Ask yourself: Is this a problem somehow for the child, or just an adult's opinion?

Over his decades-long career as a pediatrician, T. Berry Brazelton, MD, received many letters from parents and grandparents who were worried when their sons wanted to play with dolls or dress in girl's clothes.

"Worrying won't do any good," Brazelton says in "Touchpoints 3 to 6" (Perseus Publishing, 2002). "Whatever their sexuality turns out to be, you cannot change it, and it will need your acceptance. Most often, dress-up behavior at this age is short-lived and has little bearing on sexual identification."

At about age 3, children start to choose same-gender friends, and girls come up with playground taunts such as "No boys allowed."

Preschoolers need opportunities to play with boys and girls, and to choose from an array of toys and dress-up clothes that have a variety of textures and bright colors. As social pressures increase, gender roles become more clearly defined by about first grade, says Gurian, whose Web site is [www.gurianinstitute.com](http://www.gurianinstitute.com). If loved ones interfere in a preschooler's developmental experimentation, he may feel ashamed and somehow defective or become defiant. Instead, kids need the unconditional love of their parents and caregivers.

One grandmother recalled how her grandson loved to walk around in his other grandma's high heels. But the family didn't make an issue of it, and the child soon lost interest in fancy footwear.

Tip from parents: Expand dress-up options to include caps, floppy hats, belts and vests. Allow boys to play with dolls, just as girls get to play with trucks.

In a similar scenario, one grandmother expressed concern that when her 6-year-old grandson visited, he wanted her to put red lipstick on and kiss him on the cheek. Is it "serious" or a game?

Just like it's appropriate for boys to experiment with a variety of dress-up clothes, Gurian says, it's healthy for a 6-year-old boy to find a special way to attach to his grandmother. Relish the bond the boy is trying to create. Before long, he'll be wiping off the kisses or dashing off to avoid them.

Remember that children need physical affection, says Will Glennon of Berkeley, Calif., author of "200 Ways to Raise a Boy's Emotional Intelligence" (Crown Press, 2000).

Many people are afraid to show affection to their sons, Glennon says. That sends a

## Parent-to-Parent

**By Betsy Flieger**

harmful message to boys: "You're not supposed to be affectionate."

If a grandmother decides to take away this bond, then the child might think: "Oh, there's something wrong with me. Grandma doesn't love me."

In "Grandfathers: Making Memories With Your Grandchildren" (Hearst/Press, 2003), the authors say Grandmas should be a safe place where the child can experiment

with make-up.

An alternative similar to lipstick kisses is face painting.

Here's a recipe for an activity from "Grandliving" ([www.grandliving.com](http://www.grandliving.com)):

To make a non-toxic face paint, use 1-1/4 teaspoons of Grandma's cold cream; 1-1/4 teaspoons cornstarch; 1/2 teaspoon water; and 1 drop of food coloring. Mix the ingredients. Use an egg carton section for each color. Create designs with your finger on your grandchild's face. The cold cream is relaxing, and the food memory lasts long after the face paint is wiped away.

**Tip of the week:** Blended families, in particular, should avoid overindulging and overbearing during the holidays, says Stephen Poulter, psychologist and author of "Father Your Son: How to Become the Father You've Always Wanted to Be" (McGraw-Hill, 2004). Kids need downtime; they don't always need to be racing to family gatherings on Mom's or Dad's side after a divorce.

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# New pre-K seeks students

**By Jess Wisloski**  
The Brooklyn Papers

Better Brooklyn Children's Academy has a problem not frequently seen among private preschools — too many empty seats.

With three brightly colored rooms in their ground-floor childcare center on Pierpoint Street at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, and only eight students, they've just had to make-do with the excess of toys, shiny, jelly-finger-print-free posters, unused coats and classrooms.

A large backroom that was designed to accommodate up to 12 2- and 3-year-olds has been turned into a storage-TV

room, where a Christmas tree is set safely out of the grasp of tiny hands on a red Formica table.

The room for "threes and fours" has two dozen coats stacked up in a corner, and has become the nap room, while the lucky kids who are enrolled get the space designed for the "big kids" — with counting charts, hand puppets and word posters — all to themselves.

The faculty of the new preschool did their best to boost student enrollment by holding an open house in December to bring their first term, which began with only two students in September, to a close and spread word about the school, which is tucked inside a brownstone at 122 Pierpoint St.

Even though the organization — the school is run by Better Brooklyn, a community group geared towards youth

handup — is equipped to handle up to age 5 and has two certified teachers on staff, the current enrollment is mainly 2- and 3-year-olds.

"We really try to create a well-balanced education," said Andy Lewis, executive director of Better Brooklyn. The school's public relations representative, Joy Doss, agreed.

"I'm sure we'll start to spill over," she said.

The tuition, which runs from \$600 to \$1,000 per month based on the child's age, is "well below market-rate," said Lewis, adding that the school charges runs \$1,000 to \$1,600 per month. He also mentioned that scholarships are available for

varying income levels.

Better Brooklyn has leased the space on a long-term contract with St. Ann's Episcopal Church and ornate fixtures still adorn the historic parlor's wall. A crystal chandelier hangs in the middle of a room that, Lewis promised, would one day be a playroom for the tots.

The building is also used by the Saint Ann's School, a non-parochial private school that leases several rooms as additional classroom space for their lower school.

"We have enough space for kids of all different ages," said Better Brooklyn's director, Heene Reisman, who gestured around the bright, empty rooms.

"Now we just need kids," piped up head teacher Renee Silverberg, who recently got her Ph.D. in Education.

"Whatever happens, I hope she stays in this room," said Rubin Gomez, parent of 3-year-old Jesseja, who wittered happily to herself as she dragged her parents into the classroom where she spends her days.

Jesseja pulled down a shelf and stacked them up like a tower, then ran in a circle around them on a fuzzy rug before collapsing, then attempting a headstand, and collapsing again.

"She always tries to mimic what she learns in school," said Lisa Gomez, Jesseja's mom. "Come on sweetie, we have to go home," Rubin said to her daughter, who continued running in circles.

"She never wants to go," he said.

## POWER...

**Continued from page 1**

for their support of the project. Stuckey balked, and refused to answer the question, instead saying, "Why don't you ask them yourself?"

A chorus of boos came from the ACORN and BUILD activists who largely packed the audience. Afterwards, Stuckey told The Brooklyn Papers he didn't answer the question because, "It was insulting. Of course, BUILD and ACORN are not getting paid."

Bertha Lewis, Brooklyn director for ACORN, called the accusation ridiculous.

"We've built housing for over a million people. I raise two to three million dollars a year," Lewis told The Papers. "It just says to me, 'This is exactly why people think stuff boils down to race and class.' It's like, how dare you?"

"We got paid? We got paid with the biggest housing program that has our name on it that you can imagine. We're gonna be famous!" she said, referring to the 50 percent affordable housing, compared to the typical 20 percent found in most modern developments with an affordability incentive, that Ratter has agreed to include in Atlantic Yards.

"The cry for 80-20 is never heard again," Lewis said.

Patti Hagan, a Prospect Heights resident and ardent anti-Atlantic Yards activist, said she was suspicious of BUILD and ACORN's relationship with Ratter since they are the primary negotiators for the community.

"I think that is a concern, if they are paid supporters for the Ratter project," Hagan told The Papers. "I think it's a question of which community we are talking about? If they are being paid, it compromises them as free agents in negotiating a community benefits agreement."

Asked if using ACORN as the housing sponsor and BUILD as an employee recruiter would give the appearance that Forest City Ratner was rewarding those groups for their early and vocal support of the project, at the expense of other community groups, Forest City Ratner spokeswoman Lupe Todd said, "No, because we've been meeting with so many groups, and will continue to do so." All of ACORN's employees are paid through a combination of private donations, gifts, loans and grants from the non-profit organization receives through its 501(c)3 status to develop affordable housing. The New York chapter was formed 22 years ago.

BUILD is a volunteer-run Prospect Heights-based organization that sprung up at the first introduction of the arena project, whose leaders positioned the group from the get-go as an organization that sought to get unemployed local residents jobs in Ratter's existing and proposed projects, including the Atlantic Center and Atlantic Terminal malls that neighbor the western tip of the proposed Atlantic Yards site.

Build Vice President Marie Lewis, no relation to ACORN's Bertha Lewis, said, "First of all, that allegation is so redundant, and we've refuted it so many times that it's ridiculous ... if someone looked at our bank accounts it would show that we haven't received any money from the developer." If Ratter gets the necessary approvals to build Atlantic Yards, then there may be a payroll spot for BUILD, she said.

She said BUILD has compiled a database of potential applicants — 500 to 600 so far — that she is sure will be used by Forest City Ratner when it comes to hiring employees locally.

"Lots of people are looking for retail work, lots of people are looking for potential management positions," Marie Lewis said. "There are folks with bachelor's degrees, with master's degrees, and there are people with very little education at all."

In addition, she said 300 to

400 local businesses that have expressed interest in being used as contractors to build Atlantic Yards or to lease space have also been logged.

Asked if she was concerned that individuals and businesses unfamiliar with BUILD could be left out of the database and lose a chance in line, Marie Lewis said that was something the group hoped to expand upon in their partnership with Forest City Ratner.

"Outreach will be an ongoing issue," she said. "Based on what we've done thus far, it's just been us working on this as volunteers."

Once the agreement is reached ... and you have a program, and a staff, now that expands our capacity to do outreach and connect with the people."

Asked if Forest City Ratner would be paying for the staffing, she laughed.

"We're still negotiating who's paying for what right now," BUILD's Lewis said. "We're looking at different things."

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

December 25, 2004



# Take flight

DUMBO's new 'Under the Radar' fest aims to put cutting-edge productions on tour

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Mark Russell left his position as artistic director of Manhattan's acclaimed venue PS 122 last June, after 21 years, but that doesn't mean he is any less passionate about promoting edgy, innovative work that breaks the bounds of traditional theater.

The curtain will rise on his collaboration with Arts at St. Ann's "Under the Radar," a four-day mini-festival starting Jan. 7.

The festival, which he produced with Arts at St. Ann's artistic director Susan Feldman, will run through Jan. 10, primarily at the St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO and in a few additional locations. Russell chose those days because they coincide with the Association of Performing Arts Presenters' Annual Members Conference in Manhattan.

"These people decide what tours I want to have a chance to see this work," Russell told GO Brooklyn.

"Under the Radar" features a selection of performances by artists and companies that Russell expects will soon move onto the radar.

"Many of these shows go on tour to places like San Francisco and Houston where they play in very small, alternative spaces — that's real contemporary theater," said Russell. "I look for work that speaks to me, that hits me in the gut, that challenges me, that changes my perception of theater and the world."

"I want New Yorkers to see these pieces. I think it will be kind of fun to see three or four pieces in a day," he said. "In one weekend, you can see the cream of the crop of

## THEATER

"Under the Radar" runs Jan. 7-10 at various venues in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Tickets for the performances at St. Ann's Warehouse are \$15 to \$25. A \$40 "Under the Radar" festival pass provides admission to all shows at St. Ann's Warehouse plus a \$10 discount to all off-site performances. Shows are presented on a rotating schedule. St. Ann's Warehouse is located at 38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO. For more information about shows at St. Ann's Warehouse, call (718) 834-8794 or visit [www.artsatstanns.org](http://www.artsatstanns.org).

some of our most innovative theater artists. I wanted to create a buzz around them."

The festival kicks off with Cynthia Hopkins' "Accidental Nostalgia," which was presented at St. Ann's Warehouse last season and will have an extended run there this January.

"I wanted to do the first version of 'Accidental Nostalgia,'" said Russell. "It was originally going to be at PS 122, but it needed more resources than we could provide."

Accompanied by her alt-country band Gloria Deluxe, playing a blend of garage-rock, honky-tonk and cabaret music, against a video backdrop by Jim Findlay and Jeff Sugg, Hopkins tells the story of Cameron Seymour, neurologist, amnesiac, wanderer and Sufi. She draws on both her imagination and her childhood in Georgia to create this fantastic tale.

Russell calls Marc Bamuthi Joseph's "Word Becomes Flesh" a "compelling, heart-rending work about his process of becoming a father." Joseph is both a spoken-word performer and dancer. He has been seen on HBO's "Def Poetry Jam," where he has demonstrated his ability to combine language with movement.

Herbert Siguenza's "Cantinflas" is one of the comic's first solo outings away from the Los Angeles-based Culture Clash, said Russell, who called Siguenza "an incredible mime." Performing in both Spanish and English, Siguenza pays tribute to the late Mario Moreno, (stage name Cantinflas) known as the "Charlie Chaplin of Mexico."

In The Civilians' "Gone Missing," a six-member cast plays more than 30 characters telling stories about those lost and found. The show features Michael Friedman's music, which Russell said sounds like what would happen "if radio did a musical cabaret."

Russell admits that Ethel's "Streaming Ethel" comes "from left field." The string quartet blurs the boundaries between classical, jazz, rock, blues and other musical styles. Which may be why Russell — who says he "wanted something that would clear the palate, something really different" — chose this group.

There are many who consider F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" to be the great American novel. The experimental theater group Elevator Repair Service tackles the novel, reading every single word of it, in "Gatz" [at The Performing Garage, 33 Wooster St. in Manhattan, (212) 529-7875].

As Russell explains the show, "A guy comes into an office setting obsessed with reading 'The Great Gatsby.' People around him begin inhabiting the characters." Gatz will be read in two parts.

The Foundry Theatre takes on another literary icon — Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment," in "K.I. From 'Crime'" [at The Freight Entrance Theater, 208 W. 37th St. in Manhattan, (212) 868-4444]. Performed in Russian and English by Moscow's Oksana Mysina, the show depicts the last moments of Katerina Ivanovna, a minor character in the Russian novelist's work.



picts the last moments of Katerina Ivanovna, a minor character in the Russian novelist's work.

"I wanted to give a peek at some of the work that's going on around the world that we never see in this country," said Russell. "Oksana Mysina's performance is a tour de force."

Big Dance Theater's "Plan B" [at the DUMBO Stable, 16 Main St. at Water Street, (718) 422-0303] weaves the secret tapes of Richard Nixon and the biography of Kaspar Hauser, famous wild child of 19th-century Germany (a founding, who, it was rumored, came from a royal lineage) with the choreography of Annie-B Parson.

"I wanted to give everyone a chance to see this piece," said Russell.

In fact, Russell wants New Yorkers to see all eight pieces and "to participate in the whole festival."

Said Russell, "That's why we made everything low cost... friendly and festive."

## ART



## Tunnel vision

"City Depths," an exhibition of photographs by Henrik Krøigus and Stephen Schuster now on display at Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, examines the New York City subway system.

Over the last 50 years, Krøigus, whose photograph, taken Dec. 20, 1960, is shown above, has focused on the relationship of diverse riders to one another and their underground environment. Schuster, meanwhile, is drawn to the dark, largely unexplored tunnels through which the trains travel.

"City Depths" is on display in the Grand Lobby through Jan. 30. Library hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; closed on Mondays. The exhibition is free. The library is located at Grand Army Plaza. For more information, visit [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org) or call (718) 230-2100.

— Lisa J. Curtis

## EVENT

## Starry night

At midnight on Dec. 31, the Prospect Park Alliance will set off its 23rd annual fireworks show over the Soldiers and Sailors Monument arch at Grand Army Plaza.

Admission is free. All that's required to enjoy the show, designed by Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing Company, is to dress warmly and bring a hot (non-alcoholic) drink — and a friend for smooching at midnight. Event organizers advise taking public transportation to the plaza, with best viewing inside the park on Park Drive. Enter at Grand Army Plaza, Garfield Place and Third Street on Prospect Park West.

For more information, visit [www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org) or call (718) 965-8999 ext. 311.

— Lisa J. Curtis

## ART

## Gallery opens

Lurita "LB" Brown (pictured with Borough President Marty Markowitz) celebrated the opening on Dec. 16 of her new Clinton Hill Art Gallery.

The first exhibit in Brown's new space is "Untried: A Maiden Voyage," with works by Brooklyn painters and sculptors from South of the Navy Yard Waterfront Artists Coalition (BWAC) as well as those that have exhibited in her other space Clinton Hill Simply Art Gallery at 583 Myrtle Ave. at Classon Avenue.

"On behalf of Lurita LB Brown on adding to our art renaissance in a way that is deeply aware of the rich artistic history of the neighborhood and the borough — and that gives all the great Brooklyn artists of today a chance to become the art legends of tomorrow that they deserve to be," Markowitz proclaimed.

Clinton Hill Art Gallery is located at 154a Vanderbilt Ave. at Myrtle Avenue. For more information and gallery hours, call (718) 852-0227.

— Lisa J. Curtis

**Nancy Gallo**  
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Nancy Gallo, formerly of Boro Photo (Montague St.) has opened her own studio in Brooklyn Heights. Studio hours are available by appointment only. The quality studio portraits Nancy has shot in the past are now available again at very reasonable rates!

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# BROOKLYN LIVES

Neighborhood Dining Guide

## This week: ATLANTIC AVENUE

### Bacchus

409 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street, (718) 852-1572 (AmEx) Entrees: \$8-\$18.  
Heavy truck traffic may trouble by Bacchus, but that doesn't dampen the bouncy atmosphere inside this cozy French wine bar and bistro owned by Bruno Ladiol. The dining room is quiet and the tree-lined sidewalk patio is romantic. Start with the newest addition to the menu, "Grand au Fromage," rolled Swiss cheese.

"It's like macaroni and cheese, only no macaroni," said chef Didier Pawlick. "It's original. I don't think that anyone in New York is selling it."

The lunch menu is standard French fare, with omelets, quiches and "croque monsieur" (the French version of the ham and cheese sandwich), and then there's steak au poivre, grilled tuna, lamb, pork tenderloin, rabbit, duck, coq au vin, monkfish and more for dinner. Young wine drinkers will love the cellar. Open daily. Young wine drinkers will love the cellar. Open daily.

### Bedouin Tent

405 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street, (718) 852-5555 (Cash only) Entrees: \$5-\$12.

Despite its name change, this family-owned restaurant has made Atlantic Avenue its home for the past 13 years. Before Bedouin Tent, the Demis family ran their eatery as "Mountain 71." Winner of Borough Hall's 2001 "Mom and Pop Business of the Year Award," Bedouin Tent is known far and wide for their appetizing food and friendly prices.

Signature dishes include "lambani," a Middle Eastern lamb pizza, and the "harira," a Moroccan stew. For dessert, there's the "bedouin" — semolina cake served with yogurt and honey. True to its name, the restaurant has garden seats year-round under a heated tent. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Brawta Caribbean Cafe

347 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 855-5515, www.brawta.com; also in Park Slope at 447 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street, (718) 788-6480. (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.50-\$21.50.

This small Caribbean restaurant offers flavorful dishes in huge portions. Try the spicy coconut shrimp or the jerk tofu, pork or chicken or the newest addition to the menu — mahi mahi in butter sauce. Brawta is BYOB, but don't forget about their fresh-squeezed juices like mango, fruit punch, pineapple and sweet combination of ginger and pineapple, served a medicinal fruit punch and the recently added peanut punch. For dessert, try Brawta's own mango or pineapple cheesecake. The Park Slope outpost is takeout and delivery only and it is closed on Mondays. The Atlantic Avenue location is open daily.

### Jolie Restaurant

320 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 488-0777 (AmEx) Entrees: \$12-\$20.

From the art displayed on the walls to suede banquettes and contemporary-style chandeliers, Jolie Restaurant is all about its name — it's very pretty. In addition to the 60-seat dining room, you can enjoy a Nancy Li, Magda or Barbie — cocktails known as "Jolie juice" — at the 10-seat marble-top bar.

The classic French dishes, created by chef Michel Pombet, are the most popular. There are creamy omelette terrine with cornichons and onion compote or the sweetened champagne with sautéed garlic spinach and potatoes. Or choose from one of their daily specials, suggests co-owner Benjamin Tretout. Complete your meal with profiteroles, pastry puffs filled with cream and sprinkled with bitter-sweet chocolate. Open Monday for dinner. Tuesday through Friday for lunch and dinner. Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 am to 1 pm for brunch and 5:30 pm to 11 pm (10 pm on Sunday) for dinner.

### Shinjuku Japanese Cuisine

177 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street, (AmEx, DC, MC, V) (718) 925-1300. Entrees: \$9.95 to \$45.95 (for the "Love Boat" for two).

While the decor is "Bohemian industrial," according to manager Jack Liu, the Shinjuku menu has all of the traditional Japanese favorites and a few surprises.

« Full review available at

BrooklynPapers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express, DC=Discover Card, Disc=Discover Card, MC=MasterCard, Visa=Visa Card



Sweetbread champagne with sautéed spinach and potatoes at Jolie.

The wine list continues to grow and they also offer four sales — three cold and one hot. Luu can accommodate parties up to 12 behind the scenes of the private tatami room, the perfect place for a cruise on the Love Boat. Open Monday through Friday for lunch. Dinner served daily.

### Soul Spot

302 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, www.the-soulspot.com (718) 596-9733 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$12.95.

Barman Tony and Chef Vya Ceezy opened this Caribbean-influenced, Southern-style soul food spot in June 2003. Ceezy, who says he spent five years at Soul Fire in Manhattan, has a long list of signature dishes which includes meatloaf, barbecue beef ribs, fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, baked salmon, macaroni and cheese, collard greens, candied yams and peach cobbler. As the menu says, "Makes you never wanna cook at home." But with Soul Spot's free local delivery, you may never have to leave home to eat well. Sidewalk dining closed for the winter. Catering available for all occasions. Open daily from 11 am to 11 pm.

### Tripoli Restaurant

156 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street, (718) 596-8800, www.tripolirestaurant.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$14.50.

Enter this Atlantic Avenue landmark and you'll realize you're in the south shore of ancient Lebanon. Maybe that's a stretch, but an impressive mural of Tripoli's coast borders the spacious interior of this Lebanese eatery, now in its 31st year. Tripoli Restaurant is commendable for its "Colasa B'Leban," or stuffed squash with ground lamb, rice, and pine nuts, cooked in a yogurt sauce with mint, and its "Salade B'Leban," or black-eyed peas and celery with sautéed onions and coriander. Tripoli recently renovated their downstairs room for private parties. Temporarily closed on Tuesdays.

### Waterfront Ale House

155 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street, (718) 522-3794, www.waterfrontalehouse.com (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$11.95-\$21.95.

Since 1989, Sam Barber's Waterfront Ale House has embraced its pub status, offering 19 beers on tap and 45 different bottles. But with the help of local chef Jim Takacs, they are able to go well beyond the usual bar fare. There are the obligatory chicken wings and fried calamari, but diners can also sample more sophisticated choices like venison and black bean chili with vegetable-citrus cream or a burger made from Kobe beef. Try any of Waterfront's award-winning barbecue items from beef brisket to pulled pork. All meats are smoked in-house. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Zoila

73 Hoyt St. at Atlantic Avenue, (718) 596-5438 (Cash only) Entrees: \$5-\$25.

Owner Martha Johnson wants her customers to forget that they are at a restaurant when they come to Zoila. "I want people to feel like coming home," she said. For those of us accustomed to the size of New York apartments, the bright-colored room with only one counter and three chairs might truly feel like home. Johnson serves what she calls "new American food" — Latin, Asian and Mediterranean-influenced soups, salads and sandwiches. The chicken salad is served on focaccia and it includes a marinated chicken breast, basil, aioli, tomatoes and Romaine lettuce. For some Mediterranean flavor try the "mezze" plate, a combination of hummus, pesto orzo, feta cheese and stuffed grape leaves served with pita bread. Open Mondays through Saturdays from 7:30 am to 7 pm.

# All that sparkles

For New Year's, impress your friends with great champagnes and sparkling wines

By Ian Wolff  
For The Brooklyn Papers

The temperature has dropped, signaling that New Year's Eve — when friends and family come together to share warmth and cheer — approaches. Chances are, some form of sparkling wine will be paired.

Traditional champagne might be the first thing that comes to mind — after all, it dates back to 17th-century France. It's often raised in toast at wedding receptions, and it's what's in your glass when the ball drops on New Year's.

The Russian Czars appreciated it, and even Madame de Pompadour, mistress to King Louis XV of France, liked champagne. "Champagne is the only wine that leaves a woman beautiful after drinking," she said.

Today champagne shares the stage with sparkling wines from around the world. If you're shopping for a sparkling wine, you'll see names like Prosecco from Italy and Cava from Spain. You'll find there are sparkling wines from Australia, California and even South Africa.

Since only wines produced in the Champagne region of France can be called champagne, the term "traditional method," or "classic method" (or a translation thereof) is often used on labels to indicate that a sparkling wine has been made in the traditional method. Most importantly, that it was fermented in the bottle. So understanding a little about champagne can go a long way towards understanding the nuances of the vast array of sparkling wines.

Popular myth credits Dom Perignon, a 17th-century Benedictine monk, with the invention of champagne, but the development can't be attributed to one person. Sparkling wine evolved over time. Cold winters in the Champagne region often caused wine in the cellar to stop fermenting until spring when a secondary fermentation would start. The secondary fermentation created carbonation many winemakers struggled to avoid. Eventually, they realized that the secondary fermentation could be harnessed to make a refreshing and wonderful wine that became known as champagne.

Bottle fermentation is what gives



Pop the cork: On Sunday, patrons of Greene Grape wine store in Fort Greene sampled a '96 Pierre Gimonnet Blanc de Blanc, which has notes of citrus and a subtle finish.

champagne and many sparkling wines their character and individuality. The longer a sparkling wine is allowed to ferment in bottle ("left on the lees") before "degorgement" (when the spent yeast is removed), the richer and more complex the wine.

After degorgement, the bottle is topped with a sweetened reserve wine

before being recapped. The amount of sweetness is indicated on the label as Extra Brut — extremely dry with virtually no sugar added; Brut (the most common style) — very dry, less than 1.5 percent sugar; Extra dry — which is slightly less dry than Brut; and, increasingly sweet, Sec, Demi-Sec and Doux.

# Perfectly frank

Over the past month, Windsor Terrace residents have noticed an unusual sight — people walking around with big hot dogs topped with fragrant chili or sauerkraut ... sometimes both.

The source is Hot Diggity Dog, which opened on Prospect Park West in November.

"The neighborhood loves us," exclaims owner Billy Grillas (pictured). The Sheepshead Bay native says his family owns the Off Shore Diner in Bay Ridge. "So I knew I'd end up doing something with food."

Grillas chose to specialize in hot dogs, because, he says, he's always looking out for the perfect frank. "You can get a burger or a slice anywhere," he says, "but a good dog is hard to find."

"I only use Boars Head all-natural beef dogs, and I make all the toppings myself," he says. The most popular

## What to look for

Champagne is no longer just a drink for royalty. You can find vintage champagnes from small estates at less than astronomical cost. A champagne can be declared vintage only on years when conditions yield an exceptional harvest, and it must consist entirely of wine from that year.

For example, 1996 was a notable vintage year, and the '96 Pierre Gimonnet Blanc de Blanc (\$55), is a fine example of an elegant vintage champagne that can be had for half the price of more familiar names like Neve Cluot or Roederer. A "blanc de blanc" is made from 100 percent chardonnay grapes. This one has an elegant complexity with notes of citrus and a subtle finish. The Pierre Gimonnet spent six years on the lees. And that's evident in both its depth, and its 93 point score in "Wine Spectator" magazine.

But don't limit yourself to considering champagne. There are a number of alternatives at a range of prices. Illuminati Brut (\$29), a wonderful Italian "metodo classico spumante" (which translates as "foaming"), is derived from indigenous grapes grown on the Illuminati family estate in northern Abruzzo. Three years on the lees imparts notes of brioche to this complex sparkler.

Also from Italy, Prosecco is a popular sparkling wine. Its simple — yet refreshing — taste makes it a perfect aperitif. Prosecco undergoes second fermentation in pressurized tanks instead of in bottle. This helps keep the cost down. Prosecco, at \$11, is a good example. With the light and fruity body typical of Prosecco, Prosecco has honey-suckle and ripe peach aromas.

Spain has a celebrated sparkling wine called Cava. After visiting France in the 1800s, Jose Raventos brought the Champagne method to his estate in Penedes. The Raventos family continues a tradition of excellence with the Heru de Raventos i Blanc (\$14), a bright, sparkling wine with a pale straw color. Its year spent on lees imparts a nice essence of yeast balanced by hints of lemon and apple.

Sparkling wine has even made its way to South Africa. Graham Beck has been making it since 1991 at his Robertson Estate on the Western Cape. In 1994, his sparkling wine was served at Nelson Mandela's inauguration. The Graham Beck Brut (\$16) spends two years in the bottle and pours with a vigorous sparkle.

The wines mentioned here are only the tip of the iceberg, but with this little bit of the edge, you'll be able to navigate the bubbly at your local Brooklyn wine shop.

Ian Wolff is a manager at The Greene Grape, located at 763 Fifth St. between South Portland Avenue and South Oxford Street in Fort Greene. For more information, e-mail [wine@greengrape.com](mailto:wine@greengrape.com) or call (718) 797-9463.



The hot dog is topped with chili and sauerkraut.

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# Cheers for critic

To the editor:

I would be remiss as a gentleman if I neglected to thank [Pauline Simmons] for [her] inspiring and motivating review of the production of "Anything Goes" ["Frivolous and frothy," GO Brooklyn, Dec. 1]. As a long-time resident of

Brooklyn and supporter of community theater ventures, I have had the pleasure of reading your insightful reviews and have looked forward to each week's edition of The Brooklyn Papers for that very reason. You have a superb and enviable gift of word-craft, the likes of

which all aspiring, as well as experienced critics, would do well to emulate.

I was one of the musicians in the orchestra and anxiously awaited your review. As you could sense, a lot of effort and energy went into the show, so that the acknowledgment and praise you provided went a long way in justifying all the hours of practice and rehearsal.

I also read your captivating review of "Side Man" ["Side Man rings true," GO Brooklyn, Dec. 4] and was memorably impressed by the way you made it possible to revisit the production with a clarity that boasts a comprehensive and intellectual perspective. Kudos, kudos, kudos. —Marty Rawlins Bay Ridge

## BROOKLYN Nightlife

### The Backroom

(Inside Freddy's Bar) 485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights (718) 622-7035. www.freddysbackroom.com  
Dec. 26: Pub Quiz, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 28: Will Vinton, Jazz, Jan. 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 30: Frank Mock, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: 28th Annual Spook Laid New Year at Freddy's with Koleski & Luvion, Anna Copa-kabana, Marlene, Casher Carey, and special guest appearances, 10 p.m. FREE.

### Barbes

310 North St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope (718) 965-9177. www.barbesbarbrooklyn.com  
Tuesdays: David Soul Party, 9 p.m. \$6. Wednesdays: "Night of the Beaches" Laid, 9 p.m. \$6. Thursdays: Christina Drapkin, 7 p.m. FREE. Saturdays: Weekend, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 27: Tango Trio, 9:30 p.m. FREE. Dec. 29: Daniel Levin Quartet, 7 p.m. \$10. Dec. 31: Tony Malaby's Argonians, 9 p.m. \$8. Dec. 30: Chris Starr and the Sultans of String, 9 p.m. \$10. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party, 10 p.m. \$10. Jan. 1: River Zagrat Circus Orchestra, 10 p.m. \$10. Jan. 1: River Alexander & His Mad Jazz Hatters, 9 p.m. FREE.

### Bembe

81 S. 5th St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg (718) 387-5385  
Saturdays: DJ Nova, DJ Mink & DJ Joy Ride open alongside live Latin percussion rhythms, 9 p.m. FREE. Sundays: "Universal Rhythms," 9 p.m. FREE. Mondays: "Cold Hard" with DJ Drog, 9 p.m. FREE. Tuesdays: "Tight Pon" with DJ JB MK, 9 p.m. FREE. Wednesdays: "Gulfair" with DJ Miller Cruz & Dasha Amerson, 9 p.m. FREE. Thursdays: "Isola" with DJ Nat, 9 p.m. FREE. Fridays: "Cult to Drum," world beat fusion, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party with DJ spinning Latin, African, and Brazilian beats all night long, 9 p.m. \$10.

### Bennett's Tavern

7102 Fort Hamilton Parkway at 71st Street in Bay Ridge (718) 745-9401  
Dec. 31: Closed, 10:30 p.m. \$10.

### Black Betty

366 Metropolitan Ave. at Haverway Street in Williamsburg (718) 999-0243. www.black-betty.net  
Saturdays: DJ L'F, 11 p.m. FREE. Sundays: Brazilian Beat with DJ Sean Marquand and DJ Greg Cox, 10 p.m. FREE. Mondays: Rev. Vince Anderson and His Love, 10 p.m. FREE. Tuesdays: Hot Rocks sponsored by Miller High 10, 9 p.m. FREE. Wednesdays: Electric Gypsy, a Balkan dance party with DJ Sharon, 9 p.m. FREE. Thursdays: The Greenhouse with DJ Monks and DJ Emerald, 11 p.m. FREE. Fridays: DJ Mito, 11 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party featuring DJ Mito and Rev. Vince Anderson and His Love Choir all night long, 11 p.m. \$10 (includes free champagne toast at midnight).

### Boudoir Bar

213 Smith St. at Sackett Street in Carroll Gardens (718) 624-8878. www.eastendersboudoir.com  
Thursdays: Open mic, 7 p.m. Wild and Wanton Party, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

### Chocolate Monkey

329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope (718) 813-1073  
Saturdays: Express a.s.a. Open Mic Poetry talent showcase, 8 p.m. \$7. Sunday Lounge Party with DJ Chris Fuller spinning house, classic, and rare grooves, 11 p.m. FREE. Sundays: "Krazy Nanny Sunday" with DJ Ayden and karaoke with Lisa Love, 8 p.m. FREE before 9 p.m. \$3 after 9 p.m. Tuesdays: "Laidback After Work" party, 5 p.m. FREE. Wednesdays: "New Soul" hosted by Black Wax Records, 7 p.m. FREE. Thursdays: Host Terry Billy featuring DJ Rex, live music, and karaoke, 8 p.m. FREE. Fridays: "Reggae After Work" with DJ DJ 5 p.m. FREE. Live music and karaoke, 8 p.m. \$10. Dec. 31: Live music featuring Gary Michael Wade and Baba Shem, 9 p.m. \$10 (includes complimentary buffet and free champagne toast at midnight).

### Cornerstone Bar

1302 Conboy Rd. at Marlborough Road in Flatbush (718) 960-0037  
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Bash with The Blue Waves, 9:30 p.m. FREE.

### Crossroads Saloon

2079 Conboy Road at Kings Highway in Sheepshead Bay (718) 329-9932

### TALK TO US...

To list your events in Brooklyn Nightlife, please give us as much notice as possible, including name of venue, address, date, phone number for the public to call. Web site address, dates, times and admission or ticket prices. Send listings and photo photos of performers via e-mail to Nightlife@brooklynpapers.com or via fax at (718) 334-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

Trav SD (pictured) joins Murray Hill, Dirty Martini and DJ Boy Racer as part of the New Year's Eve line-up at Galapagos.

Fridays and Saturdays: Karaoke, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party TIME TRO, 9 p.m. FREE. Includes live buffet, champagne toast at midnight, karaoke and live DJ.

### Le Dakar Restaurant

285 Grand Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill (718) 398-9903. www.dakarcoffee.net  
Tuesdays: Spoken Word, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party, 10 p.m. \$30 (includes champagne toast at midnight, RSVP required).

### Elite Ark

73 Worthman Ave. at Georgia Avenue in East New York (718) 649-6535  
Dec. 28: Barney's Christmas, 9 p.m. \$5 with 2 drink minimum. Tuesdays: Tuesday Night Live, 9 p.m. FREE with 2 drink minimum. Wednesdays: Karaoke Wednesday with Davey B, 9 p.m. FREE. Thursdays: Lorraine Youngblood & The Blood Brothers, 8 p.m. FREE. Fridays: Five Dance Party, 10 p.m. \$5. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party with DJ's Loli, Tyrone Perkins and special guests, 9 p.m. \$25.

### Galapagos

70 N. 5th St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg (718) 782-5188. www.galapagosart.com  
Sundays: Sid and Buddy Karaoke, 10 p.m. FREE. Mondays: Monday Evening Burlesque a.s.a. "Isola" featuring Fun, 10 p.m. FREE. Tuesdays: New York Weekly, 8 p.m. \$6. Fridays: Galapagos Floating Vauvau, 10 p.m. FREE. Dec. 27: Miscellaneous with Joe Piano, 7:30 p.m. FREE. Dec. 28: Callio Maria, 10 p.m. FREE. Dec. 29: Libt Alt featuring Mithali, 7 p.m. \$8. Dec. 30: The Tulp Show with Tulp Show and Her Trail of Tears with a special guest, 8 p.m. \$10. The Hungry March Band: Galapagos Experience, 10 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve at Galapagos hosted by Murray Hill, Dirty Martini and TravSD with DJ Boy Racer and top secret

music guests, 7 p.m. \$20 (includes champagne toast at midnight).

### Hope and Anchor

347 Van Brunt St. at Wolcott Street in Red Hook (718) 237-0276  
Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: Karaoke hosted by drag queen Kay, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party hosted by drag queen Kay Sera with door prizes, karaoke, festivities and more, 9 p.m. FREE.

### The Hook

16 Columbia Street in Red Hook (718) 797-3007. www.thehookmusic.com  
Dec. 29: Tal Days, 9 p.m. \$10. Wednesdays: Buffalo: Theory, 11 p.m. \$5. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve with Jollyph the Whizbang, 10 p.m. The Foodies, 11 p.m. \$10. Midweek: Vasa Vasa Sisters, 1 a.m. \$10 in advance, \$15 day of show; Jan. 1: Prophets of Blue, 9 p.m. Saturday: Peace, 10 p.m. Conflict of Interest, 11 p.m. \$15.

### IO Restaurant

119 Kant Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg (718) 388-3320. www.io-restaurant.com  
Saturdays: DJ spins salsa and house, 10 p.m. FREE. All night, men \$5 after 11 p.m. Mondays: Monday Night Football, 8 p.m. FREE. Thursdays: DJ El spinning hip-hop, house, R&B, reggae, salsa, 9 p.m. FREE (DJ and over). Fridays: Live jazz featuring The Poma Squad, 9 p.m. FREE with 2 drink minimum. DJ spins salsa and house, 10 p.m. Ladies FREE all night, men \$5 after 11 p.m. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party with live DJ, 9 p.m. \$69 (includes three-course dinner, open bar until midnight, champagne toast at midnight, by reservation only).

### JRG Fashion Cafe

177 Flatbush Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Fort Greene (718) 399-7079  
Fridays and Saturdays: Live DJ, 11 p.m. \$10 after midnight. Mondays: "Martin and Mito Monday" with DJ Nuff Said, 5 p.m. FREE. Dec. 26: Christmas Party, 11 p.m. \$10. Dec. 31: 2nd Year Anniversary Event/New Year's Eve Party, 10 p.m. \$10 with invite before 1 a.m. \$20 after 1 a.m.

### The Jazz Spot

179 Marcus Garvey Blvd. at Kischelsko Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant (718) 625-7655  
Mondays: Jam Session, 8 p.m. \$5. Dec. 31: Celebrate New Year's Eve remembering Roy Charles with jazz vocalist George Bingis, 9 p.m. \$60 (includes dinner and midnight toast).

### Jazz 966

966 Fulton St. at Cambridge Place in Clinton Hill (718) 439-6910  
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Swing Dance and Party featuring Puchio & His Latin Soul Brothers and Billa Billa Billa, 9 p.m. \$30 (includes \$10 members, \$30 in advance, \$40 day of the show includes dinner and party follow).

### Kill Bar-Cafe

811 1st St. at State Street in Borough Hill (718) 855-5574  
Tuesdays: Open Acoustics, 9 p.m. FREE. Fridays: DJ Chucky plays rock, hip-hop and funk, 10:30 p.m. FREE before 10:30 p.m. \$15 after 10:30 p.m. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party with three DJs, 9 p.m. \$10 (includes free champagne toast at midnight and continental breakfast).

### Laila Lounge

113 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg (718) 486-6791. www.lailalounge.com  
Sundays: Jazz Jam Session, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 29: "Big House Basement 2004" Resonance Square, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: Laila's New Year's Eve Party with live bands, DJs, and a fashion show, 9 p.m. \$10 (includes free champagne toast at midnight and continental breakfast).

### Larry's Liquid Love

1165 Bedford Avenue at Putnam Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant (718) 783-7291  
Sundays: Karaoke, 9 p.m. FREE.

### Les Babouches

7803 Third Ave. at 78th Street in Bay Ridge (718) 833-1700  
Fridays and Saturdays: Belly dancer Shahrazad, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party, 9 p.m. \$25 (includes four-course dinner, belly dancer performance, and free champagne toast at midnight).

### Liberty Heights Tap Room

34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook (718) 246-8020  
Thursdays: Open mic, 8:30 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: Lex Gray and The Urban Poets, 9 p.m. \$10 (includes free champagne toast at midnight).

### Life Cafe 983

983 Flushing Ave. at Central Avenue in Bushwick (718) 386-1133. www.lifebar.com  
Tuesdays: Bingo for Baw, 8 p.m. FREE. Wednesdays: Open Mic with Chuck, 10 p.m. FREE.

### Lillie's Bar

46 Bowd St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook (718) 858-9822  
Wednesdays: R&B Night with live music and open mic, 8 p.m. \$5 (includes all-you-can-eat ribs). Dec. 28: Peter Courtney, 9 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Copacabana Party with Salsa-Foo and The Low Riders, 10 p.m. \$10 (includes live DJ,

open guitar with fireplaces, and free champagne toast at midnight).

### The Lucky Cat

245 Grand St. at Roasting Street in Williamsburg (718) 782-0437. www.theluckykat.com  
Mondays: Chaco, 8 p.m. FREE. Wednesdays: Heat, with DJ Jeremy, 10 p.m. FREE. Fridays: "Bugs to the Future" with DJ Sport Casual and The PIVCA spinning soul, funk, Brit pop, new wave, R&B, and more, \$5 (includes free champagne toast at midnight).

### The LuLu Lounge

(Under Tacu) 134 N. 5th St. at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg (718) 218-7889. www.tanepublic.com  
Sundays: Jose Luis Martinez Trio, 7 p.m. FREE. Wednesdays: "Random Act of Kindness," 9 p.m. \$4 (includes free drink). Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays: "Karaoke Nights," 8 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party with live DJ, 9 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door (includes party favors, free champagne toast at midnight, and count-down on the big screen).

### M Shanghai Bistro & Den

129 Haverway St. at Grand Street in Williamsburg (718) 384-2303  
Fridays and Saturdays: Monthly DJ parties, 10 p.m. FREE. Sundays: Hip-hop karaoke with Dymic Damien and DJ Harry Ball, 10 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party hosted by DJ Kid Magic, 10 p.m. FREE (includes free champagne toast at midnight and early morning blubbery waffles).

### Magnetic Field

97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights (718) 834-0069. www.magneticbrooklyn.com  
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Magnetic Bandstand with the fabulous Ms. K and special guest WC, 9 p.m. \$5.

### National Restaurant

273 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton Second Street in Brighton Beach (718) 548-1225. www.comedional.com  
Saturdays: Live Russian music and dance show, 9 p.m. FREE (with \$40 live show). Fridays and Sundays: Live Russian music and dance show, 9 p.m. FREE (with \$45 live show). Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party, 10 p.m. \$300 per couple (includes party-style meal and entertainment).

### Night of the Cook

767 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene (718) 797-1197  
Saturdays: Live jazz, 10 p.m. FREE. Sundays: Live music, noon. FREE. Thursdays: Live jazz, 8 p.m. FREE. Fridays: Live jazz, 10 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Jam with music by DJ Fido, 10 p.m. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door (includes buffet and champagne toast at midnight).

### Peggy O'Neills

(Two locations)  
8123 Fifth Ave. at 81st Street in Bay Ridge (718) 748-1400. www.peggyoneills.com  
Sundays: NFL Party, 1 p.m. \$25 (includes open bar and food). Mondays: Karaoke with DJ Rob, 10 p.m. FREE. Thursdays: Karaoke with DJ Rob, 10 p.m. FREE. Fridays: DJ Kyanja, 10 p.m. FREE.

### Pete's Candy Store

709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg (718) 522-3770. www.petcandy.com  
Sundays: Open Mic, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. FREE. Matty Charles and the Valentines, 10 p.m. FREE. Dec. 28: Stephen Thorne, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 27: Devan Day, 9 p.m. Supperhouse Industrial Rock & Die Co., 10 p.m. Nemo, 11 p.m. FREE. Dec. 28: Goodbye Better Holiday Showcase with So-L, 9 p.m. (Free Tractor), 10 p.m. Tiger Vion, 11 p.m. FREE. Dec. 29: Callio Maria, 10:15 p.m. FREE. Dec. 30: Jonathan Bentley, 8 p.m. The Foster Family, 9 p.m. Natalie Flanagan, 10 p.m. Colin McNamee, 11 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: Milton's New Year's Eve Party with the Milton's All-Star Band and The Beatles, 9:30 p.m. FREE.

### Samba Restaurant & Nightclub

9604 Third Ave. at 96th Street in Bay Ridge (718) 439-4765  
Saturdays: "Havana Nights" featuring Nino Torre spinning Latin rhythms, salsa, club classics, and disco, 10 p.m. Ladies FREE, men \$10 (ladies 24 to enter, men 26 to enter). Fridays: Joe Bee, 8 p.m. R&B, Latin and Orlando present "Samba Friday" with music by DJ Soziah, 10 p.m. FREE. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Copacabana Party with Salsa-Foo and The Low Riders, 10 p.m. \$10 (includes live DJ,

Continued on page 8...

## MARCO POLO RISTORANTE



## New Year's Celebration 2005

Friday, December 31, 2004 8:30pm to 2:00am

Featuring a Four Course Dinner, Live DJ, Midnight Champagne Toast & All Night Open Bar

### Appetizer

Egogotino di salmone con gamberi alla pancetta e confit di pomodoro  
Marinated Steamed Salmon filled with maitre d' & served with shrimp wrapped in pancetta topped with a medley of julienne vegetables & olives

### Primi Piatti

Crespellina alla Sorrentina e Conchi d'Aurora con Basilico  
Crepe with wild filling in tomato & cream sauce topped with melted mozzarella & fresh basil

### Secondi Piatti

Medaglione di Rana pescatrice con timo e vongole  
Mignon di Manzo gratinato alla senape  
Combination dish of Medallion sautéed with thyme, white wine & marinated clams & Grilled Fillet Mignon topped with fresh bread crumbs & mustard crust

### Dessert del Pasticcere (dessert & coffee)

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Tickets: \$25

**Robbi Bob Alper**  
Sunday • January 16, 2005 • 2pm  
Tickets: \$25

**Philodanco**  
Saturday • January 22, 2005 • 8pm  
Sponsored by Marie Gilmore Foundation, Barbara Foundation  
Tickets: \$30

**Circo Comedia**  
Smythe and Sautier  
Sunday • January 23, 2005 • 2pm  
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For groups of 15 or more, call 718.951.4800 x20

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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# Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

**THURS, Dec 30**

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** presents a New Year's dance party. \$4, free for members. 2:30 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**FAMILY TIME SERIES:** Ryan Repertory Company presents "Christmas in the Land of Oz." \$12, \$10 children under 8. 8 pm. Harry Warren Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

**BLUGRASS MUSIC:** Chris Star and the Sullans of String perform on guitar, banjo and mandolin. 8 pm. Post-run fireworks at midnight. Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park. [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org) or (718) 921-7183.

**FRI, Dec 31**

**New Year's Eve**

**RUN RUN:** Brooklyn Road Runners Club invites you to ring in the New Year with a healthy and fun 3.3 mile run in Prospect Park. \$20, 11:15 pm. Post-run fireworks at midnight. Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park. [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org) or (718) 921-7183.

**BROOKLYN BRIDGE WALK:** Walk into the New Year. See the fireworks from Staten Island, Brooklyn, Central Park and New Jersey. Also see an Empire State Building light show to greet the New Year. Learn how the Roosevelt family built the Brooklyn Bridge. \$25 (child card pre-paid reservation). \$30 (adult). Walk begins at 11 pm. Meet inside Bimpy's Restaurant, 38 Park Row, lower Manhattan. (888) 377-4455.

**PREWORKS:** Over the Grand Army Plaza and at midnight. [www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org) or (718) 965-8999 ext. 311. Free.

**SAT, Jan 1**

**New Year's Day 2005**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**ICE SKATING:** The Williams rink is open. \$5 adults, \$3 children and seniors. Skate rentals for \$5. 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm. Enter Prospect Park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 267-5252.

**SUN, Jan 2**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**ICE SKATING:** The Williams rink is open. See Sat., Jan. 1.

**OTHER**

**LECTURE:** Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a talk, "Telling Your Aunt Mame About the Values of Islamic Religion and Muslim Americans." 11 am. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972. Free.

**SAT, Dec 25**

**Christmas Day PERFORMANCE**

**UNDER THE BIG TOP:** Moscow Circus performs. \$35, \$40, 11 am, 2 pm and 5 pm. Millennium Theater, 1029 Brighton Beach Ave. (718) 615-1500.

**OTHER**

**QUILTS:** "My Favorite Quilt" exhibit, featuring 10 quilts with themes ranging from Judaism to peace, is on display at Prospect Park Audubon Center at the Boathouse. Open noon to 5 pm for school break (Dec. 24 through Jan. 2). Enter Prospect Park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 297-3400. Free.

**SUN, Dec 26**

**OUTDOORS**

**MARSH WALK:** Enjoy a walk around the marsh with the Urban Park Rangers. Dress for the weather. Meet at 3302 Ave. U. For information call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers. Free.

**PERFORMANCE**

**CBCC:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College presents the L'Chaim series with comedian David Wolfman in "Laughing from Right to Left." \$25, 2 pm. Walt Whitman Theater on the campus of Brooklyn College, one block from the junction of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**WOMEN'S CONCERT:** Women are invited to "Songs of the South" with Neshama Carlebach. \$18, \$15 students and seniors. 7:30 pm. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840.

**UNDER THE BIG TOP:** Moscow Circus. 11 am, 3 pm and 5 pm. See Sat.

**CHILDREN**

**BROOKLYN MUSEUM OF ART:** Stories and art hour presents "Any Facts with Relationships." \$6, \$3 seniors and students. Free for members and children under 12. 11 am and 2 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5500.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** presents "The First Game." Kids are invited to learn about the oldest games in the world. Appropriate for ages 6 and older. \$4, free for members. 1 pm to 4 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**OTHER**

**FLEA MARKET:** at Bay Ridge Jewish Center. 9 am to 4 pm. 405 81st Street. (718) 836-3103.

**FILM:** Celia Szentofl presents "Pick Up Your Ears" (1987). 10:30 pm. 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7776. Free.

**MON, Dec 27**

**FENCING CAMP:** Brooklyn Fencing hosts a workshop where beginners learn the basics. Training and conditioning available for advanced students. \$45 for 1 week or \$70 per day. Equipment provided. Ages 9 and older. 10 am to 4 pm. Through Dec. 29. 64 Fourth St. (718) 522-5522.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** presents the Yuletide Singers. \$4, free for members. 1:30 pm and 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**YOUTH THEATER:** TADA Theater offers a 5-day session during the winter break. Kids sing, dance, act and perform in a musical. \$35, \$30 to 2:30 pm. Call. (212) 252-1619.

**TUES, Dec 28**

**POLAR PALS:** NY Aquarium invites kids 6 to 8 years to learn about the lives of animals that live on the ends of the world. Event includes exhibits, games, crafts and more. \$26, \$21 members. 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 265-FISH.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** hosts a Kwanzaa art workshop. \$4, free for members. 2 pm to 4 pm. Also, Charles Moore Dance Theater Kwanzaa Celebration. 1:30 pm and 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**FAMILY TIME SERIES:** Ryan Repertory Company presents "Christmas in the Land of Oz." \$12, \$10 children under 8. 8 pm. Harry Warren Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

**WEDS, Dec 29**

**AQUARIUM:** Kids ages 5 to 10 are invited to learn why walruses and whales enjoy a cold environment. \$28, \$23 members (per adult/child). 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. NY Aquarium, West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 265-FISH.

**LUNCHEON:** Brooklyn Historical Society offers a walk around Brooklyn Heights. Stops include the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, St. George Hotel and Plymouth Church. \$6, \$4 students and seniors. 12:30 pm. Meet at 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** presents "The First Fruits of Kwanzaa," a family event. \$4, free for members. 3 pm to 4 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**FINANCIAL TALK:** Pratt Area Community Council presents the series "Bring Me to the Bank: Building and Preserving Wealth." today. "Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning." 6:30 pm. 266 Lefferts Place. (718) 753-3549. Free.

**FAMILY TIME SERIES:** "Christmas in the Land of Oz." 8 pm. See Thurs. Dec. 30.

## LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

# Nightlife...

Continued from page 7...

**Sistas' Place**  
456 Nostrand Ave. at Jefferson Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (718) 398-1766. [www.sistasplace.org](http://www.sistasplace.org).  
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve with Craig Harris, Selma Sunkata, and more. 9 pm, 10:30 pm, \$20 in advance, \$25 day of the show.

**Southpaw**  
125 Elm Ave. at 59th St. at Plaza in Park Slope. (718) 230-0236. [www.southpaw.com](http://www.southpaw.com).  
Dec. 28: The Slip, Dirty on Purpose, 8 pm, \$15; Dec. 29: General Mogg, AM, No One Is the Son of a Bitch, 8 pm, \$7; Dec. 31: New Year's Eve with Luna and Macmillan, 8 pm, \$30 (SOUL OUT).

**Stonehome Wine Bar**  
87 Lafayette Ave. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene. (718) 624-9443.  
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party with DJ Ebenezer Bond, 9 pm, \$20 (includes free champagne toast at midnight).

**T.J. Bentley's**  
7110 Third Ave. at 71st Street in Bay Ridge. (718) 745-0748.  
Dec. 29: Live-swing dancing to the Townsmen, a 17-piece big band, 8 pm, FREE.

**Trash Bar**  
256 Grand Ave. at Chryse Avenue in Williamsburg. (718) 599-1000. [www.trashbar.com](http://www.trashbar.com).  
Dec. 26: Badhouse Party. 8:30 pm, \$780.

**Waterfront Ale House**  
155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 522-3794. [www.waterfrontalehouse.com](http://www.waterfrontalehouse.com).  
Jan. 1: Live blues, 2 pm, FREE.

**The Wicked Monk**  
8415 Fifth Ave. at 84th Street in Bay Ridge. (718) 921-0071.

**Will spinning salsa, reggae, hip-hop, 10 pm, ladies \$5, men \$10.**

**Dec. 25:** Christmas with DJ Chris, 10 pm, FREE; Dec. 26: Children's Benefit with live bands and live DJ, 7 pm, donation suggested; Dec. 31: Runners with DJ Kyle, 9 pm, \$20 (includes free champagne toast at midnight); Jan. 1: Junk Mule, 11 pm, \$5.

**Williamsburg Music Center**  
367 Bedford Ave. at South Fifth Street in Williamsburg. (718) 384-1654.  
Saturday: Live jazz, 10 pm, \$5; Fridays: Live blues, 10 pm, \$5.

**Zebulon**  
258 Wythe Ave. at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg. (718) 218-4929.  
Dec. 26: Badhouse (Celtic, gypsy, folk rock), Time TBD, FREE; Dec. 27: Burton Green Trio with Eddie & Georges Shuler, Time TBD, FREE; Dec. 28: The Wellman, Time TBD, FREE; Dec. 29: Marianne (experimental rock), Time TBD, FREE; Dec. 30: Gold Sparkle Trio and Sabir Maman, Andrew Baker, Charlie Waters, Adam Roberts, Time TBD, FREE; Dec. 31: New Year's Eve with Zeros, El Gallo Bueno, and Mutant Latin Salsa, Time TBD, FREE.

—compiled by Chiara V. Cowan

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Continued from page 1

Capano has stated his intention to run against Democratic incumbent Councilman Vincent Gentile in 2005 and has held campaign fundraisers. Markowitz is up for reelection in 2005.

The issue of whether or not Capano should resign seems to hinge on charges leveled at him by Democratic Assemblyman Peter Abbate, who claims Capano's eventual council campaign will unfairly benefit from his position at Borough Hall by putting the candidate before potential voters at civic association and community board meetings as well as myriad other events in the Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights-Bensonhurst district.

Abbate, who himself served under former Borough President Golden until 1985, acknowledged that Capano's dual role did not necessarily warrant an investigation by the city Conflicts of Interest Board. Nonetheless, he said that he had raised the issue with Markowitz.

"I don't think he's doing his job," said Abbate, an 18-year incumbent of the 49th Assembly District, which encompasses Borough Park, Bensonhurst and Dyker Heights. "I think he's been playing politics rather than serving the people."

Capano, 31, contends that since September he has voluntarily refrained from representing the borough at events throughout the 43rd council district, which includes Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights

and portions of Bensonhurst. Otherwise, he said, he would maintain that the likely candidate has successfully separated his duties with Borough Hall from his political aspirations.

"He hasn't represented any of the 43rd and that was something they established once they started throwing his name around [as a possible candidate]," said Donald Clark, a six-year member of Community Board 11, whose monthly meetings both Capano and Abbate attend sporadically.

"It's unfortunate, because Markowitz is a Democrat but recognized Capano's work, which just shows that [Capano] works well with everybody," said Clark, adding, "This is schoolyard crap that [Abbate's] playing."

While responsible for all 18 Brooklyn council boards, Capano said he personally visits only boards 13 and 15, which encompass Coney Island and Sheepshead Bay, respectively. Camille Socci, a liaison who reports to Capano, has represented Community Board 10 at Borough Hall since September and Community Board 11 since 2002.

"I would doubt that those people would say I'm not doing my job," said Capano, referring both to the community board members he represents and to members of the Brooklyn Borough Board, which he said, met only a month ago to discuss ways of improving the borough's community board activity.

"Throughout my time at Borough Hall, since 1999, I have given 110 percent for Brooklyn and all our great communities," said Capano. "I will continue this record as long as I remain serving with Borough President Markowitz."

The issue could provide steam for a campaign by fellow Bay Ridge Republican Pat Russo, 36, who ran unsuccessfully against Gentile in November 2003 but garnered 40 percent of the vote.

Kings County Conservative Party Chairman Jerry Kassas has said that his party would likely endorse Russo over Capano, primarily because of Russo's showing in 2003.

The Borough Hall campaign-conflict issue harks back to the 2001 race for borough president in which Howard Golden's deputy borough president, Jeannette Gadsden, was accused of campaigning for the seat while simultaneously holding an appointed position within the office with significant policy influence.

The city Conflicts of Interest Board, a five-member panel appointed by the mayor, ruled in January 2001 that appointed public servants with substantial policy discretion could not solicit contributions for a campaign for city elective office.

Gadsden eventually took a job as special assistant to Golden in order to continue her run, free of conflict, while maintaining a job, albeit at a lower salary, at Borough Hall. She lost to Markowitz in a three-way race that included former Brooklyn Heights Councilman Kenneth Fisher.

## PIZZA...

Continued from page 1

get tired of talking about it."

But over dinner at Franny's, a wood-fired, brick-oven pizzeria on Flatbush Avenue at St. Marks Place in Prospect Heights, Kuban did not tire of pondering pizza. Rather, between bites, he lamented the death of the coal oven, a secret ingredient for many of New York's most storied pizzerias, not least of all Totom's, on Neptune Avenue in Coney Island, and Grimaldi's, on Old Fulton Street near Front Street in Fulton Ferry. (A zoning change in the early 1960s banned all new coal-fired ovens, grandfathering in those brick ovens already in existence.)

The void, said Kuban, goes a long way in explaining why so many parlors are simply averages. Worse still, he said, is when a restaurant doesn't take full advantage of an existing brick oven, choosing instead to fire the pies with wood.

"It's like having a Ferrari and driving 55," he said.

But Kuban acknowledges that a new wave of pizzerias, like Franny's, are beginning to remind New Yorkers why their city is known for stellar pies.

Kuban readily acknowledges that his passion stems from his father's own outsize craving for pizza. Growing up in a suburb of Kansas City, he helped his dad make homemade pies and listened to the old man's dreams of opening up his own "Milwaukee-style" pizzeria. Although he concedes that the term likely doesn't exist outside of his family circle, he uses it to describe a pie with a particularly thick crust, almost like that of a pastry.

After a stint in Portland, Ore., Kuban moved to New York — Bay Ridge, in fact — and began eating pizza the way poor college students survive on ramen noodles. At one point, Kuban was hitting the dough on a daily basis, sometimes even two and three times a day. But as with any binge, Kuban's all-pizza diet came crashing to a halt and the pizzeria was relegated to a once-a-week destination.

It was only after his maiden voyage to DiFara, on the corner of Avenue J and East 15th Street in Midwood — on Palm Sunday last year — that Kuban returned to his love affair. Since then, he, Ritter and another SlicNY contributor, Marc Bailes, have been balancing their day jobs — Kuban is a full-time copy editor at "Martha Stewart Living" — with their work on the Web site. He estimates that he invests 20 hours a week on the blog, where he is attempting nothing short of amplifying pizza's significance in popular culture.

In one entry, Brian Williams is a source of pizza power. While the jury's still out on Tom Brokaw's "NBC Nightly News" replacement, SlicNY seems to endorse the talking head, thanks to an Associated Press story posted on the site that paints him as pizza friendly.

"Tom Brokaw's replacement is a NASCAR car who considers pizza night with the kids sacred — thin crust, please — and listens to hundreds of hours of White House tapes from the Johnson administration for fun," reads a passage of the article, which is followed by a shining endorsement of Williams by the SlicNY crew.

In another entry, pizza is cited as a major player in the evolution of rap music, with one member of the pioneering "Sugar Hill Gang" working at a pizza parlor just before recording the classic, "Rapper's Delight."

"Were it not for Crispy Crust Pizza in Englewood, [N.J.], who knows how much longer we would have waited for hip-hop to become the phenomenon that it is," writes Kuban on the blog. He said he uses a system of search engines to hunt down new mentions of the word "pizza" as they surface on the Internet. Each time the P-word is uttered on the Web, SlicNY will be there to magnify its importance.

"We treat it a little like six degrees of Kevin Bacon," Kuban said of the parlor game whose object is to connect, through shared movie credits, one actor to another, namely Bacon. "It's like how can you connect a celebrity or some news event to pizza? And you'd be surprised at how easy it can be."

If only finding that elusive Gravenstein pizza could be so easy.

By Ed Shakespeare

for The Brooklyn Papers

New Mets manager Willie Randolph came home to Brooklyn Dec. 16, greeting children at the Cyclones' annual Community Holiday Party at KeySpan Park in Coney Island.

More than 200 local youngsters and their parents were in attendance as guests of the Cyclones, Brooklyn's minor league baseball team.

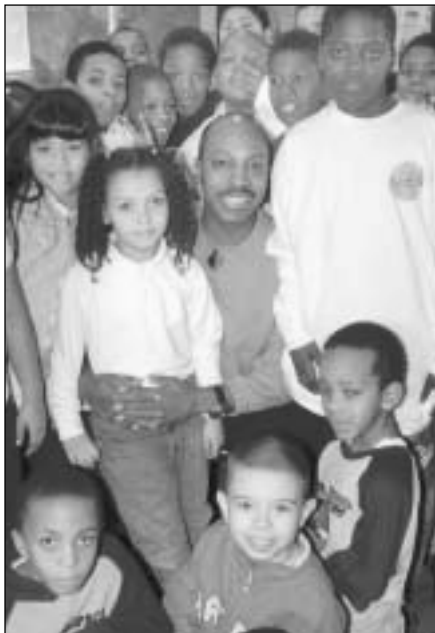
They enjoyed hot dogs and french fries supplied by Nathan's, and took part in games and activities. Cyclones' mascots Sandy the Seagull and Pee Wee entertained the kids, and another surprise visitor made an appearance, but the real star of the occasion was Randolph.

A former all-star second baseman for the Yankees, Randolph, a Brownsville native, played 13 seasons with the Yankees and coached them for 11 years.

In accepting the Mets' managerial position this fall, Randolph became the first black baseball manager in New York City history.

Still, when Randolph entered the KeySpan Park lobby, where the party was in full swing, he stood unrecognized by the youngsters. Until he was introduced to warm applause. A line formed for autographs, but many of the hungry youngsters made sure they got their food first, a point that Randolph noted with a chuckle.

As he signed a souvenir postcard for each young fan, Randolph meticulously signed his name in flowing script, making sure to go back and dot the "i's" in Willie each time. He gently reminded one young fan to say "Thank you," and



Baseball star Willie Randolph, the new manager of the New York Mets, spoke to N.A.T.S. Kids at KeySpan Park about getting the chance to play major league baseball.

Randolph had a friendly comment for each of them.

After signing autographs, Randolph, 50, born in South Carolina, discussed his Brooklyn roots.

"This [baseball] is what I love to do. My friends and I played in the Puerto Rican leagues — a lot of the bodegas were sponsoring teams back then. I played softball, baseball, any kind of games in the neighborhood that we could find," Randolph told The Brooklyn Papers. "It was a close-knit, very friendly environment."

It was the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, and I remember it being a real neighborhood. It was tough. It was mean streets, more or less, but my parents raised me well, and for the most part, I stayed out of trouble and was able to be drafted by the [Pittsburgh] Pirates out of high school and the rest is history."

What was his family like back then?

"My father was a hard worker," noted Randolph. "My mother took care of her kids and made sure we had a good education, and it was a very rich, very full upbringing. Unlike a lot of major leaguers whose parents were very sports-minded, with me it was the opposite of what you might expect. My parents weren't sports-minded at all."

So how did Randolph get involved in baseball?

"My cousins taught me the game," said the Mets skipper. Randolph was asked about a report that he used a Jackie Robinson-model glove as a youngster.

"I don't remember what glove I used as a young kid, but I was inspired when I read 'The Jackie Robinson Story,' noted the Mets skipper of the

biography of the Brooklyn Dodger Hall-of-Famer who was the first black player in modern baseball.

Randolph played his high school baseball at Samuel I. Tilden High School in East Flatbush.

Tilden wasn't a great baseball power or anything like that," said Randolph. "We played on a field that was more conducive to football, with a short right field porch."

Randolph was a shortstop at Tilden, and he made first team All New York City his senior year.

He played for six major league teams, including the Mets in 1992. One of his managers was the Los Angeles skipper, Tommy Lasorda, who had pitched for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

"Tommy taught me a new way to play," noted Randolph. "But I learned things from all my managers."

Randolph wasn't old enough in 1957 to see the Dodgers play at Ebbets Field. "It was a shame I missed the Dodgers," said the new Mets manager.

Has he seen the Cyclones, his new team's single-A affiliate play at KeySpan Park?

"I've seen a few games at KeySpan," said Randolph who saw his son, on last season's Staten Island Yankees, play at KeySpan. "If the schedule permits, I'll be there again this summer."

Randolph left to return to Shea Stadium. But a new visitor to the party was attracting the kids' attention. He had an enormous belly, and was wearing a red suit.

Was it David Wells, the Red Sox new left-hander? Nope. It was Santa Claus.

## Clones earn Marty a free meal

Borough President Marty Markowitz and wife Jamie (seated at right) are treated to dinner at Ponte Vecchio restaurant at 8810 Fourth Ave. in Bay Ridge. Picking up the tab is Staten Island's James Molinaro with Jean Casack. Molinaro lost bet over who's borough would have a better baseball team. While the Cyclones finished first in the McNamara Division of the New York-Penn League, the Staten Island Yankees came in dead last. Well, at least they didn't lose to the Red Sox.

## LIBRARY...

Continued from page 1

dents might have about the reconstruction. With only a small number of about 12 people, most of them library insiders, the meeting briefed attendees on what to expect, both during and after the project's development.

Allice Fisher Rubin, the library's buildings and grounds chief, told attendees that old auditorium building was designed to have an underground auditorium, but when the project ran out of money, the idea was abandoned.

Joking about fundraising for the project, she said, "I'm not sure we have it yet, but we're going ahead anyway."

Ginnie Cooper, the library's director, started by introducing the other projects in the works at the Grand Army Plaza library including everything from expansion of the Brooklyn Collection on the second floor to replacement of building's boiler.

She explained that the auditorium plaza, which makes up the roofing of the auditorium, would be replaced, giving the library the opportunity to create wheelchair accessible ramps to both the Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue entrances.

The underground, which she said "has become a sort of furniture morgue over time," and features low ceilings, uneven floors and poor lighting, will meanwhile be rebuilt with a 200-seat theater and stage (with no backstage area) suitable for lectures, concerts, films and community events.

"A grand common area suitable for exhibitions" would lead from the entrances to the auditorium, and both would be accessible separately from the library, so after-hours events could take place securely, she said.

Two side meeting rooms, which Cooper said are being called the "green rooms" for their green color on the plans, could accommodate community meetings, workshops and seminars.

Meanwhile, the new plaza above will boast a wider platform space than the plaza entrance does now, in order to be able to "accommodate events in the summertime," said Cooper, includ-

ing informational kiosks, outdoor food vendors and retail carts.

Additionally, she said, a "water element" or running water along the sides of the stairways leading up to the plaza, will help to "mask some of the sounds of traffic." The entire plaza will be a wireless Internet zone.

Perhaps the king on the cake is the night lighting scheme, which barely exists at the library now. By completion of the project, library officials hope it will mimic the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch across the street.

"Development commences this winter; we hope to start in early January," said Cooper. In the meantime, the library is still shoring up the financing to pay for it all.

"Some public money came from the City Council," said Cooper. "But there's a substantial federal endowment for it." She cited and thanked specifically the work of Reps. Major Owens and Edolphus Towns.

While construction goes on, the library leaders made clear that Eastern Parkway might be the best entrance to use to avoid delays or rerouting, and that wheelchair-bound patrons should continue to use the Youth Wing entrance, on Eastern Parkway at the rear of the library building.

Construction equipment will not be left in the street, Cooper said. "It will all be staged here, using the grassy areas on Eastern Parkway. And we're going to do some spectacular signage that will lead people and make it clear where our entrances are," she said.

Towards the end of the brief session Rubin thanked the patrons for coming out, but encouraged people to speak up (despite library courtesy) in the future.

"We're hoping we won't have any fax pals along the way but if you have any thoughts that occur to you, we encourage you to contact the library before we have a major disaster on our hands," said Rubin.

Construction is expected to finish by fall 2006.

## NORMAN...

Continued from page 1

Facing a 22-count indictment that includes charges that he tried to bribe and extort Karen Yellen and Marcia Sikowitz, two candidates for judgeships in 2002, Norman resorted to an old refrain — that his conduct, while rough, is still protected under the First Amendment.

Citing a 1973 Supreme Court case dealing with collective bargaining, Baker and a second Norman lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, argued that even threats of violence are permitted in politics, provided that the reason for sounding those threats wasn't for personal gain.

Last month, a judge dismissed four charges against Norman relating to election-law violations, but the court appearance on Monday involved the charges of coercion and extortion. Neither lawyer would comment on other charges that day.

Norman and co-defendant Jeffrey Feldman, the Kings County Democratic Committee's executive director, stand accused of coercing Yellen and Sikowitz to pay upwards of \$9,000 each to Branford Communications. When they each refused, the co-defendants threatened to drop the Democratic Party's endorsements of the two, the indictment alleges.

Branford Communications, run by Brooklyn Democratic Party stalwart Ernie Linder, prints and mails palm cards and leaflets for political candidates and is considered by many to be the premier firm for such services.

"A blue suit is a blue suit," said Brafman, explaining the difference between Branford and other communications firms. "But it's not a blue suit when you begin to look at the timing, the tailoring and all the rest that goes into it."

"Karen Yellen would have used some hole-in-the-wall non-union printer," he added.

"When it came time to pay the check, these girls snuck off to the lady's room," Brafman said to Yellen and Sikowitz.

But prosecutor Monique Ferrell wasn't buying it. "This was put up or shut up, and do as we say because we say it," she said. "This was ordinary, common thuggery."

# The Brooklyn Papers

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# HEALTH, MIND & BODY

## Tips for lowering holiday stress

### Maimonides Medical Center

Maybe it's the season to be jolly, but the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day can be the most stressful time of the

year for many people as they battle crowds, spend money, make travel plans, and worry about social lives and family obligations.

"Such considerations can

be problems any time of the year," says Dr. Alan Hilfer, a member of the Psychiatric Service at Maimonides Medical Center.

"But during the winter holiday season, those problems can take on greater meaning and a greater magnitude."

According to Hilfer, "We all can enjoy the holidays more if we realize that this may not be the time when all our wishes will come true."

Many people feel that during the holidays, they will reconcile with a parent, or have that conversation with a brother that they never got a chance to get into. If you can go into these settings without expecting everything to be magically wonderful and different, you often feel better about not having expectations unmet."

There are many other sources of stress as well—from budgeting for major gift giving to worrying about heading home for the holidays

—especially if home requires a long car trip or plane flight. Some shudder at the thought of cooking for a house full of company, or preventing conflicts between in-laws, or whether they will be alone on New Year's Eve.

"Such legitimate fears and concerns can manifest themselves in a variety of physical ways," says Hilfer. "Stress can take on physical dimensions as severe as ulcers, migraine headaches, drug and alcohol abuse, and insomnia. People can develop eating disorders, digestive problems, shortness of breath, and skin rashes."

"Along with them can come irritability, mood swings, crying jags, and inappropriate be-

havior," he added.

Bearing in mind the adage that an ounce of prevention can be worth a pound of cure, Hilfer has some suggestions for insuring your holiday season is as satisfying and stress-free as possible.

- Be realistic. Don't expect all your wishes to come true.
- Don't make too many plans or invite more guests than you can handle.
- Make your plans along with others. Be sure to get help from friends and family members when you're organizing the holiday dinner or drawing up the itinerary for a holiday trip.
- Budget your time as well as your money. Try as well as possible to limit the hours you

feel obligated to spend on activities that make you uncomfortable, just as you plan your gift-giving expenses.

• Seek counseling from others—a therapist, a friend, a spiritual counselor—if you start feeling overwhelmed or depressed.

• Give some holiday gifts to yourself. Try deep breathing, meditation, yoga, or just simple relaxation at moments when you feel the onset of stress.

"The end of the year can be a beginning for coping with the stresses and strains of life," says Hilfer. "If you try some of these suggestions during the holiday

season, they can be of great help during the rest of the year."

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 10th day of December, 2004, bearing the Index Number N00726/2004, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of: Susanna Kishinsky. My address is 750 Cushing Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11223. The date of my birth is September 4, 1986. The place of my birth is Chernivtsi, Ukraine, former Soviet Union. My present name is Susanna Kishinsky. JP02

Notice of Formation of Mini Media Group LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), Articles of Organization were filed with Secretary of State on 8/17/04. NY office location: KINGS County. Any of the State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Any of the State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served to Christopher Chiosso, 21 Jay Street, Suite 101, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. JP02-03

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 10th day of December, 2004, bearing the Index Number N00726/2004, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of: Ilan Pasachowsky. My present name is: Ilan Pasachowsky. My present address is: 2239 Strickland Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11234. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: 12/20/2004. JP02

Notice of Formation (LLC), Name: Triana Rivera, LLC, Articles of Organization that with NY Civil Court of State on 9-23-2004. Office location: Kings County, NY. DQS shall mail copy of process to 561 Varney St., Brooklyn, NY 11227. JP02

## NY Methodist uses video to diagnose epilepsy in kids

New York Methodist Hospital

For a child with epilepsy, the road to proper diagnosis and treatment now has a fast lane: non-invasive, pinless electroencephalographic (EEG) video monitoring. Behavioral and psychiatric disorders, as well as other activities that resemble seizures, can be ruled out using EEG video monitoring, which is offered at New York Methodist Hospital.

Because epilepsy is an intermittent disorder, routine EEG studies, which monitor brain activity for 30 minutes, are only about 20 percent effective in detecting seizure activity. That percentage jumps dramatically when patients are observed for three or four days, "in most patients, the longer you record, the more reliable information you get," said Romaine Schubert, MD, chief of pediatric neurology.

"The diagnosis of epilepsy is extremely important as the illness is chronic and has a major impact in terms of quality of life," said Dr. Schubert. "This is an incredibly useful tool and a tremendous advance in our ability to diagnose and manage epilepsy."

The obvious benefit of EEG video recording is that it allows the doctor to see what happens just before, during, and right after a seizure. Video EEG monitoring can also aid a physician in determining the type of seizure, which can help when selecting effective medication for the patient and can also help the doctor decide whether the child is a candidate for surgery.

For the parent of a young child with epilepsy, just discovering what their child's seizures look like can bring a tremendous amount of relief. Sometimes the physical manifestations of a seizure so subtle that the parents do not recognize them. These young patients are often unable to describe their experiences to a doctor or parent, making the diagnosis that much more significant.

EEG technicians, who are specially trained to work with children, attach electrodes to the patient's head using an adhesive. These electrodes are then connected to a recording device that monitors brain activity with long wires, which allow the patient to move around the room freely. Parents can choose to stay with their children, and are asked to press an "event button" connected to the machine if they notice something resembling a seizure.

For more information on EEG with video monitoring, please contact the New York Methodist Hospital's division of pediatric neurology at (718) 780-5267.

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